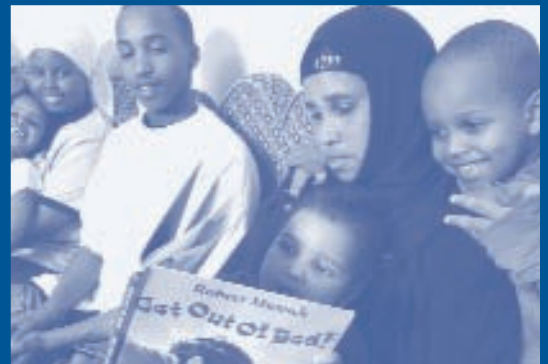




HUMANITY ABOVE ALL



THE ATKINSON LEGACY IN ACTION



A Message from the President and Executive Director

HUMANITY ABOVE ALL



PETER A. ARMSTRONG
President and
Board Chair



CHARLES E. PASCAL
Executive Director and
Board Secretary

These simple words by J. E. Atkinson ring as true for us today as they did when the Toronto Star's publisher set out on a social crusade at the turn of the 20th century. His unrelenting commitment to transform his city and his country from a place of inequality and despair to a kinder and fairer society is well chronicled in the new film *Fighting Words: the Social Crusades of Joseph. E. Atkinson*.

As noted by Michael Pieri, the film's executive producer, Mr. Atkinson's values and his remarkable foresight in tackling social issues was often decades "ahead of his time" (see back page).

Taking a page from Joseph Atkinson's life story, Roy Romanow's feature essay, *Child Care and the Future of Canada*, argues that the progress of our nation can be measured to a large extent by how we ensure the wellbeing of our children.

In 2005, the Foundation was hard at work with our partners to carry on our mission of promoting social and economic justice in the tradition of Joseph E. Atkinson:

- Helping the dream come alive for early learning and child care in Canada through support for five Toronto First Duty sites that put into practice the kind of enriching programs that every child and family should have available;
- Fostering new ideas and energy towards the achievement of smart reforms in our income security programs so that everyone can live in dignity, not poverty;
- Progressing in our efforts to measure what matters to Canadians through our support for the development of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing;
- Redoubling our efforts to solidify the cornerstones of social and economic justice through universal medicare, public education, and affordable housing.

Perhaps because our founder had his roots in the newsroom, we believe that for good ideas to come alive and spark the imagination of the public at large and decision-makers alike, they must have an opportunity to be seeded in the public arena. So we continue to work with our partners to build our communications effectiveness. We continue to act as a convener and "honest broker" bringing people and their promising ideas together with those who can make change happen.

And we have rallied behind people and projects that can inspire Canadians to build a more progressive society. The remarkable work of our three Economic Justice Fellows, Armine Yalnizyan, Roy Romanow, and Cathy Crowe, is a case in point.

Catherine "Betsy" Atkinson Murray stepped down in 2005 as the Foundation's Chair and President, following 12 years of inspired and visionary leadership. Betsy has played such a significant role in steering the Foundation to where it is today and we very much look forward to her continued contributions in the years ahead. We also note with our deepest respect and affection the passing away in 2005 of another great social crusader, Beland Honderich. The Star's legendary publisher is remembered for his dynamic contributions to the Foundation for over 44 years.

We hope that you enjoy reading this year's report and that you have an opportunity to view *Fighting Words: the Social Crusades of Joseph. E. Atkinson*. As always, we appreciate your ideas and support as we seek to carry on Joseph E. Atkinson's visionary crusade.

Peter A. Armstrong & Charles E. Pascal



**BETSY
ATKINSON
MURRAY**



**BELAND
HONDERICH
1918 — 2005**



CHILD CARE AND THE FUTURE OF CANADA

Reflections of an Atkinson Fellow

by Roy Romanow



The Hon. Roy J. Romanow, P.C., O.C., Q.C.

The Hon. Roy J. Romanow was premier of Saskatchewan from November 1991 to February 2001 and the Commissioner on the Future of Health Care in Canada. He is a senior fellow at the University of Saskatchewan and an Economic Justice Fellow at the Atkinson Charitable Foundation.

It has now been three and a half years since the Atkinson Charitable Foundation (ACF) honoured me with its Economic Justice Award and gave me the privilege of becoming an Atkinson Fellow.

I have had the privilege to associate myself with the values-based principles that fueled Joseph Atkinson's lifelong crusade: a strong, united and independent Canada; social and economic justice; individual and civil liberties; strong communities and civic engagement; the rights of working people; and a necessary role for government to fill the gaps left by the private sector and market forces.

His was a noble campaign, one that is carried out today by the progressive and dedicated people at the foundation that bears his name. And I'm delighted that earlier this year Mr. Atkinson was introduced to a new generation through the superb ACF-produced documentary *Fighting Words: The Social Crusades of Joseph E. Atkinson*.

Of all the factors that motivated Mr. Atkinson to imagine a better Canada, perhaps none was more central than the plight of children in his time, many of whom struggled under deprivation, disease, and exploitative working conditions in the city's many sweatshops. In one poignant image from *Fighting Words*, one that I'm sure drove Mr. Atkinson's unrelenting crusade, Toronto's harsh slums toil literally in the shadows of City Hall's power and imperviousness.

We have come a long way since those days, thanks to Joseph Atkinson and the many others who have since joined the spirit of his crusade for fundamental social reforms. Our cities, our country is a vastly different place today, anchored by our strong economic and social foundations.

Just recently in fact, we came closer to achieving another milestone in Canada's history when our senior levels of government committed to kick-starting a much-awaited pan-Canadian early learning and child care program.

While shifting political priorities may have altered the progress of this remarkable vision, the quality of its nation building character and the public's support for it, will eventually win out.

In reflecting on these recent developments in child care, I cannot help but think about the parallels with that other cornerstone for a just and progressive Canada, our treasured Medicare program.



“Of all the factors that motivated Joseph Atkinson to imagine a better Canada, perhaps none other was more central than the plight of the children in his time, many of whom struggled under deprivation, disease, and exploitative working conditions in the city’s many sweatshops.”



As an Atkinson Fellow, I have spent some of my time following up on the work of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada, focusing on ensuring that our sacred Medicare is properly reformed so that all Canadians, regardless of income, have access to high quality health care.

What made the Health Care Commission a particularly meaningful experience for me was hearing from thousands upon thousands of citizens who are steadfast in the belief that Medicare is the single greatest symbol of our uniqueness as Canadians.

What makes Medicare the quintessential Canadian program is that it is the convergence point where so many of our values come together. Medicare demonstrates that as a community we can accomplish so much more by working together than we could ever dream of doing working alone. It underscores our belief that citizenship confers upon us rights that are based on the strength of our need and not the size of our wallet. Medicare highlights one of the new realities of a young century: that economic growth cannot advance at the expense of social cohesion, or social cohesion at the expense of economic growth – the two have to go hand-in-hand.

It is this understanding of community, citizenship and economic value that underpins the faith of Canadians in Medicare. And it is these very same things that underpin the need for an early learning and child care system in Canada.

Like Medicare, child care’s benefits are both social and economic. They are not simply about our values of fairness and justice, they are also about the central role that a healthy, educated population plays in bolstering a competitive economy.

Like Medicare, child care research clearly demonstrates the

many quality advantages of investing public money in a not-for-profit approach. Wages and conditions are better; early child educators in not-for-profits stay longer and therefore provide better sustaining relationships with children, and public resources are reinvested into the wellbeing of children, not siphoned off for private benefit.

Like Medicare, progress on child care is met with arguments about the need for “more choices”. But it is an inescapable fact that in Canada today, regulated child care meets the needs of only 1 out of every 6 children under 12 years of age. In the case of child care, “choice” must mean that high quality early learning and care is advanced as an option of choice, not postponed or eliminated.

One of the key points I make in my Report is that we have to set a national goal to ensure that Canadians are the healthiest people in the world. To achieve this goal we have to connect all of the dots that will take us there. Dealing with illness through our health care system is one crucial piece of the puzzle, but it alone is not sufficient. Alongside quality health care we also need a greater emphasis on preventative health measures and new tools like the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (an exciting venture of the Atkinson Foundation) to tell us about our progress on the things that really count for our future as a nation.

The notion of wellbeing encompasses a broader and more holistic perspective on how we can improve, not just our health outcomes, but our overall sense of contentment and satisfaction through investments in key determinants such as early childhood development and the general quality of one’s life.

As evidence clearly demonstrates, there is a direct



relationship between a healthier population and the benefits derived from access to quality early learning and childcare. Quality childcare is multi-pronged in its contributions to a sense of wellbeing - it is a key plank in a strategy to address child and family poverty; it is essential to parents furthering their education, training and expanding their employment opportunities; it is a support to women's equality and community cohesion and, of course, it makes all the difference as we seek to promote a life full of curiosity about learning new things.

In effect, good early learning and developmental supports are essential to improving all of the so-called "determinants of wellbeing" and a life well-lived.

To strengthen our common commitment to early learning and child care is to advance our individual and collective wellbeing and in turn, the building of a better Canada. And in my view, to weaken or sabotage the development of an early childhood program will inhibit our national progress.

In an essay in the June edition of *The Walrus* magazine, I wrote that at the heart of my affection for our great nation, is a concept I call "shared destiny", the key to our legacy and values forged over the course of our young, but dynamic history.

The legacy of centuries on this continent and close to 130 years of nation-building is the cornerstone idea that our future is best shaped through collective action, that the sum of Canada is greater than its remarkably diverse parts.

At first, the concept of a shared Canadian destiny was not so much a philosophic commitment as a principle of survival. In a land so vast, in a terrain so rugged, in a climate so harsh – we would not have lasted very long without embracing the idea of collective action. Even for those like me, who came of age in 20th century prairie communities, the harsh, often snow-blown conditions, droughts, distance and isolation forced us together like poplar trees on a wind-swept plain.

But through the years, as we lived together, worked together and built together, what started out as principle of survival was transformed into the foundation of a nation. Each generation has in turn added a dimension to

the Canadian Dream. The concept of collective action was expanded over time to embrace values such as fairness, opportunity, respect, tolerance and acceptance, caring and compassion, and a balance between individual endeavor and social benefit.

Each generation has also given life in its own way to the Canadian "experiment" and the values that underlie it. For one generation it was the building of a great national railroad and for another, tempered by the Dirty Thirties and the collapse of the global economic system, it was the creation of credit unions, cooperatives, health centers, and crown corporations. Perhaps the crowning glory was the



“ To strengthen our common commitment to early learning and child care, is to advance our individual and collective wellbeing and in turn, the building of a better Canada. ”

creation of the great social safety net, knitted together by the strands of universal hospitalization and health care, unemployment insurance, support for the poor, and pensions for the aged.

We must remember just how much has been achieved thanks to our commitment to a shared destiny.

But as I see it, in recent years there has been a drift away from this legacy. The era of deficits and the new global trading arrangements have tilled the soil for the sprouting of views at odds with shared destiny. Today there is palpable momentum toward decentralization,



“ *It is time for us to take a page out of Joseph Atkinson’s history, to dare to imagine a bolder future, and to apply our unrelenting determination to achieving a fairer tomorrow.* ”



individualism, and privatization, all parading as means to forge a stronger nation.

How can we build a truly great nation unless everyone, regardless of income or region, has access to the same high quality health care? How can we build a great nation unless every family has access to high quality early learning and child care regardless of income or region? We can't.

Yet witness the growing disparity between young families and family heads over 45. The benefits of economic growth have remained elusive for younger families, as high debt loads and a labour market that has undergone dramatic changes in the past decade have negated the promise of a higher education. Are we doing all we can to equip this generation as it faces the demands associated with the graying tsunami? Now is the time to invest in the workforce of tomorrow and to ensure that young families have the supports that they need as they imagine a prosperous future.

There is too much at stake to abandon all the progress that has been achieved in forging a consensus for child care as the next building block for a progressive Canada.

The Foundation's work in this area is so critical. I am especially impressed by the innovative work of the Toronto First Duty pilot sites that put into practice that old saying that "anything that exists is possible". Supported by a partnership between the Foundation, the City of Toronto and the Toronto District School Board, Toronto First Duty has set out to build the future of early

childhood education. Five sites are operating today which provide services for families with young children that blend kindergarten, child care, and parenting supports into a single program linking practice and curriculum. This work is already playing a key role in guiding Toronto's early years aspirations under the Province of Ontario's *Best Start* vision.

It is projects like this that will keep the flame alive for the pan-Canadian early childhood and education program that our communities right across this country have been waiting for.

How important is it that we do this? A recent Environics poll reinforced the fact that the Canadian public places a high value on child care programs and the importance of affordable child care to the fabric of society. The vast majority of Canadians understand that the lack of affordable child care poses a serious challenge for our nation. In fact, there is almost unanimous agreement from coast to coast on the need for our public institutions to play a significant and active role in supporting parents to meet their needs.

I firmly believe that the progress of our nation and respect for our legacy and values can be measured to a large extent by how we deal with the important issue of child care. It is time for us to take a page out of Joseph Atkinson's history, to dare to imagine a bolder future, and to apply our unrelenting determination to achieving a fairer tomorrow. ■



Atkinson's Legacy in Action...

Projects Funded in 2005



Early Learning and Child Care: Helping the dream come alive

2005 was a watershed moment for early childhood development in Canada, as senior levels of government began to lay the foundation for a pan-Canadian early learning and child care system. The Foundation continued to play a role towards achieving this vision by extending its financial support for a number of interconnected activities.

Toronto First Duty continued to evolve as a living example of what the future of Early Learning and Child Care could look like across Canada. In partnership with the City of Toronto and the Toronto District School Board, five demonstration sites continued their work to combine the three pillars of early learning and care - regulated child care, kindergarten and parenting supports - into a single, accessible service. The Foundation's particular focus was on the *Early Learning Centre at Bruce/Woodgreen Public School* (\$121,865).

Atkinson Centre at OISE/UT fueled collaborations between academic research, community development, and professional education, including the establishment of a formal partnership between OISE/UT and George Brown College (\$45,000).

Atkinson Centre at OISE/UT for Toronto First Duty research and development that provides evidence-

based storytelling and innovative technical assistance in partnership with the City of Toronto, Toronto District School Board and HRDC (\$33,286).

Better Child Care Education Foundation in partnership with the *Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care* engaged in research, community capacity building and public education on issues of early learning and child care (\$46,325).

Better Child Care Education Foundation to develop and implement a public education strategy for Toronto First Duty (\$70,080).

Better Child Care Education Foundation for *Building Blocks for Child Care (B2C2)* to assist local capacity to deliver quality not-for-profit services and to support efforts to evaluate and monitor Early Childhood Development programs (\$39,000).

Economic justice

The Foundation supports a number of research and educational projects that contribute to improved income security policies and poverty reduction objectives.

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives to expand the capacity of *rabble.ca*, an online, progressive news site (\$10,000).

Centre for Equality Rights and Accommodation for capacity-building, public engagement and policy development activities designed to eliminate housing-based discrimination (\$46,250).

Community Foundations of Canada to engage foundations and build their capacity to work from a social justice perspective (\$25,000).



Family Service Association of Toronto for the *Atkinson Social Action Internship Program* (\$25,000).

Houselink Community Homes for research and community engagement about the right of people living with mental illness to live in communities of their choice (\$36,200).



Parkdale Community Legal Services in partnership with the *Workers Action Centre* to support Toronto-based contingent workers' employment prospects and their participation in research and dialogue regarding working conditions (\$50,000).

Phoenix Community Works Foundation in collaboration with the *Toronto Disaster Relief Committee* to conduct evaluation, research and education into housing and homelessness issues in Ontario (\$100,000).

Phoenix Community Works Foundation in partnership with *House Party - Bringing home the solutions to homelessness in Canada* for an all-star musical performance featuring the talents of homeless people alongside established performers to highlight the capacities of the homeless (\$20,000).

People for Education for capacity-building, research and public engagement to revitalize public education in Ontario (\$110,000).

St. Christopher House for the *Communities Undertaking Social Policy Project*, with a focus on research, convening and public education activities of the *Task Force on Modernizing Income Security for Working Wage Adults* (\$130,000).

Steelworkers Humanity Fund for research and coalition-building on the issues of "No Sweat" purchasing policies, labour rights and corporate responsibility (\$50,000).

Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto for the *Faith and the Common Good Initiative* to establish a broad-based alliance between faith leaders and community members for social and economic justice (\$45,000).

Atkinson Economic Justice Fellows

The Atkinson Economic Justice Fellowships are awarded to community leaders whose exceptional work inspires the Foundation's imagination. The awards provide Fellows with support to continue to think and act for a more just and healthier future for all Canadians. Fellowships vary in amount and can provide resources of up to \$100,000 per year for expenses for a period of three years. A "tap on the shoulder" is the method for selection. Applications not accepted.



ARMINE YALNIZYAN, the first recipient of the Fellowship, spent the better part of 2005 working in partnership with CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) to examine the history of Canadian health reforms. This project revealed how

lessons learned over time can help us better understand and frame the current health debates in Canada as well as in developing nations. Ms. Yalnizyan continued to provide thought-provoking analysis about public expenditures on health care and programs that support the determinants of health. Ms. Yalnizyan's work in collaboration with service providers, feminist groups, academics and human rights advocates served to clearly lay out policy alternatives in this unusual era of continued fiscal surplus.



Special Initiatives

The Canadian Index of Wellbeing: Measuring What Counts

The Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW) is a transformational approach to measuring the true wellbeing of Canadians. It will measure changes in the things that matter most to Canadians: living standards, time allocation, healthy populations, ecosystem health, an educated populace, community vitality and civic engagement.

The CIW work gained strong momentum in 2005 and counted on a new funding partnership with the Royal Bank of Canada. Significant work was accomplished by the research teams in the development of the CIW's key domain areas. In May 2005, the CIW received a major boost in public awareness thanks to a keynote speech by Roy J. Romanow at the United Way of Canada/Centraide Canada conference. Also in May, *Reality Check* magazine dedicated its issue to the introduction of the CIW. The CIW has been received with great interest by the Canadian and international media and by individuals and organizations throughout Canada who want to support and use the Index once it is fully

constructed. This was reinforced by cross-Canada roundtables with key stakeholders in 14 communities and extensive one-on-one interviews. For more information and updates visit www.atkinsonfoundation.ca/ciw

Fighting Words: The Social Crusades of Joseph E. Atkinson

is a documentary project produced by the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, that examines the life and times of the Star's legendary publisher; tells the story of a great newspaper in the making, and charts the City of Toronto's progress towards a more civil society. See Michael Pieri's essay on the back page for more about this initiative.

The Ruth Atkinson Hindmarsh Award

was established in 1998 to celebrate and encourage the heroic efforts of organizations that fight child poverty and its disastrous effects. The award is dedicated to the memory of Ruth Atkinson Hindmarsh, daughter of Joseph E. Atkinson, and president of the Foundation until her death in 1994. It provides an annual gift of \$50,000 - the largest of its kind in Canada - to an Ontario-based charitable



THE HON. ROY J. ROMANOW continued his important research, writing, and extensive public engagements aimed at strengthening and sustaining Canada's medicare system. Mr. Romanow was also

actively engaged in the development of the Canadian index of Wellbeing (CIW), a new approach to measuring the true wellbeing of Canadians and connecting the dots between how policy decisions affect the health and wellbeing of Canadians. Mr. Romanow provided a major boost for public awareness about the CIW during a keynote speech to the United Way of Canada/Centraide Canada national conference in May 2005.



CATHY CROWE continued her work to increase public awareness about the solutions for the housing and homelessness crisis at the local and national levels. Ms. Crowe continued to visit communities outside of Toronto in order to learn first-hand about local issues and to provide

support for community efforts towards long-term solutions. She has expanded on her work as a Street Nurse by focusing on the potential impacts of the pandemic influenza on people who are homeless and living in poverty. Ms. Crowe is currently completing her book, *Dying for a Home*, which includes the voices of homeless and formerly homeless men and women who have been part of the struggle for a national housing programme. Cathy's speeches and monthly newsletter are available at <http://tdrc.net/CathyCrowe.htm>



organization that has implemented an activity that significantly improves the life prospects of children at risk. The award is co-sponsored by the six Hindmarsh families and the Foundation. The Teresa Group, which has been providing emotional support and HIV education to children and families dealing with the virus and AIDS since 1991, was the recipient of the 2005 Award.

The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy is designed to further both the tradition of liberal journalism in Canada and the commitment to social and economic justice of Joseph E. Atkinson, former publisher of the Toronto Star. Funded by the Toronto Star, the Honderich Family, and the Foundation, it provides a grant for a Canadian journalist to undertake a year-long research project on a topical public policy issue. Marie Wadden, a producer for CBC radio in Newfoundland and Labrador, was the 2005 recipient of the Fellowship for her project *Tragedy or Triumph: Canadian Public Policy and Aboriginal Addictions*. Ms. Wadden will research and write about the issue of Aboriginal addictions and propose social policy options for

public consideration. The results of her work will initially be featured in the Toronto Star in the Fall of 2006 (\$75,000 stipend plus expenses up to \$25,000).

The **Here and Now: Feed the Needy** gifts program provides funding to Ontario faith-based charities in recognition of their work to clothe, feed, and house the disadvantaged over the holiday season. Grants are determined in consultation with Foundation partners – there is no application process. The following agencies received grants in 2005:

- St. John the Compassionate, Toronto (\$25,000)
- Good Shepherd Refuge, Toronto (\$12,500)
- St. Bartholomew, Toronto (\$12,500)
- Downtown Mission, Windsor (\$25,000)
- Centre 454, London (25,000)

Board Member Service Recognition ... our thanks to Dr. Thall!

Dr. Burnett M. Thall resigned from the Board in 2005 after 48 years of commitment and dedication to the Foundation. A Board Member Service Recognition Grant was awarded in Dr. Thall's name to the Organization for Rehabilitation and Training to assist in the development of a Toronto Computer Lab in Rose Avenue Public School (\$25,000).

Atkinson Charitable Foundation Board of

Directors: Peter A. Armstrong (Chair and President); Catherine (Betsy) Atkinson Murray; Hugh Mackenzie (Treasurer); Nancy Hindmarsh; Carol Goar; Reverend Susan Eagle; Charles E. Pascal (Secretary to the Board and Executive Director).

The Foundation thanks the Toronto Star for its generosity in granting permission for the use of the images in this report.

Visit us on the Web...

Please take time to visit the Atkinson Foundation's website for more news, views, updates on our projects and links to a vast selection of resources from the Foundation and its partners. While there, sign up for the Foundation's e-bulletin and stay up to date on what we're up to:

<http://www.atkinsonfoundation.ca/>



Financial Overview

BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31

	2005 \$	2004 \$
ASSETS		
Cash	249,336	191,537
Investments, at cost	56,131,461	51,937,342
	56,380,797	52,128,879
FUND BALANCES		
Income fund	5,987,962	6,767,007
Capital fund	50,357,127	45,354,667
The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy fund	35,708	7,205
	56,380,797	52,128,879

STATEMENT OF INCOME FUND

Year ended December 31

	2005 \$	2004 \$
RECEIPTS		
Interest on bonds	1,219,042	1,071,674
Dividends	703,206	391,501
Interest on cash and short-term investments	13,473	3,174
	1,935,721	1,466,349
Amount received from private estates and individuals and other entities	204,518	358,140
	2,140,239	1,824,489
DISBURSEMENTS		
General and administrative	346,089	237,907
Investment management	178,174	127,793
Grants program		
Program development	959,073	445,658
Grants paid	1,360,948	1,977,296
Grants paid to The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy fund	75,000	25,000
	2,919,284	2,813,654
Deficiency of receipts over disbursements for the year	(779,045)	(989,165)
Income fund balance, beginning of year	6,767,007	7,756,172
Income fund balance, end of year	5,987,962	6,767,007

The data shown has been extracted and summarized from the 2005 Audited Financial Statements of The Atkinson Charitable Foundation. The complete Financial Statements can be obtained by contacting our office directly at (416) 368-5152, or writing us at: The Atkinson Charitable Foundation One Yonge St. Suite 1508 Toronto ON M5E 1E5



Humanity Above All: The Legacy of a Canadian Hero

by Michael Pieri

A century ago, Toronto was a harsh place. Hungry children dwelt in vile slums. Women toiled in “sweatshops,” or were compelled to beg. When winter came, bone-chilled and weary men trudged frigid streets seeking work to sustain their families, who often lived on the brink of sheer starvation or fell prey to preventable diseases.



These were the dreadful social conditions that existed for untold numbers in Toronto in the late Victorian era, a time vividly brought to life in *Fighting Words: The Social Crusades of Joseph E. Atkinson**, the story of the Star’s remarkable publisher.

A production of the Atkinson Foundation, *Fighting Words* is more than a fascinating slice of Canadian history. It is a moral tale that tells us about the shaping of Canadian values and how these have guided us to where we are today. These values act as a barometer regarding how much more work needs to be done for those who are disadvantaged through no fault of their own.

Joseph Atkinson stands as one of the most influential unelected Canadians of the 20th Century in creating a more just and equitable Canada. By the time of his death in 1948, the publisher had successfully championed a host of radically new life-improving measures: unemployment insurance, old age pensions, family allowances and workmen’s compensation, labour standards and minimum wages.

Nearly a century following the beginning of the Atkinson crusades in 1899, life is still crowded with disappointments and is unacceptably difficult for too many Canadians – even harsh. Joblessness. Poor literacy. Inadequate housing. Abuse. Racism. Child and family poverty.

There is still much work to be done. But the inspirational message that Joseph Atkinson imparts in *Fighting Words*, that we must strive for “Humanity Above All,” is as clear today as in Atkinson’s era.

Michael Pieri, a former editor of the Toronto Star, is the Executive Producer of “Fighting Words: The Social Crusades of Joseph E. Atkinson”.

* For information on viewing and/or obtaining a copy of this documentary, visit <www.atkinsonfoundation.ca>

Mission statement

. . . promoting social and economic justice in the tradition of our founder Joseph E. Atkinson.



Printed on Neenah PC100 Environment paper, a processed chlorine-free paper (PCF) with 100% recycled and post consumer fibers. Chlorine-free paper avoids bleaching of wood pulp and prevents the release of toxic compounds into air and water. Children, who take in more air, food, and water per pound of body weight than adults do, are the most vulnerable to these threats. For more visit "Reach for Unbleached!" at www.rfu.org.